Ms. Greco

6-8 Grade Science Syllabus

Teaching Policy

* Inquiry – Based Learning
* Students will be encouraged to explore concepts, methods, and ideas independently as well as with the help of their peers. Students will use their current knowledge along with the knowledge of their peers to comprehend new concepts and theories.
* Inquiry-based learning will provide students with an opportunity to become independent and self-sufficient when faced with challenges inside and outside of the classroom.
* Sufficient background information will be provided for students prior to lessons or laboratory exercises to ensure maximum preparation for self- sufficiency.
* Monitoring Knowledge and Metacognition
	+ Students will progressively review information from a current or previous unit by completing comprehension checks. This will allow students to retain information throughout the year and will minimize any chances for previous material to be forgotten.
		- Comprehension checks will consist of 3-5 questions showcasing the most important parts of the lesson. By completing these, students will consistently review the information they have recently learned, therefore decreasing the likelihood of skill and knowledge loss.
		- Comprehension checks will occasionally consist of questions from previous units, thereby allowing students to work with all of the information they have learned throughout the year.
		- Comprehension checks also serve as a way for data to be taken. Student knowledge and progress will be tracked on a continuous basis to ensure that confusion is addressed immediately and students receive the individualized assistance required to meet their unique needs.
	+ Students will have periodic meetings with the teacher to determine their level of knowledge and areas of strength and weakness. This will provide students with a clear idea of what they need to work on and what studying and learning strategies have worked best for them. Students will be encouraged to monitor their metacognition on a continuous basis.

Assessment Policy

* Pre-tests
* **Pre-tests** will be given to the students prior to each exam and/or quiz. They will serve as an opportunity for students to gain an understanding of their current level of adequacy and will provide an appropriate understanding of the actual assessment.
	+ The grade received on each pre-test will be waived but will reflect upon how well prepared the students are for the actual exam.
* Formative Assessments
	+ **Comprehension checks** will be discussed in the beginning of class and will count towards a small percentage of the students’ homework and classwork grade.
	+ Students will be asked comprehension questions throughout each lesson to ensure they are progressing at an appropriate rate. Each student’s current level of knowledge and understanding will be measured on a continuous basis. Data will be taken often using these comprehension questions to compare student responses from the beginning of the lesson to the end.
	+ Students will occasionally put completed homework problems on the board to showcase correct answers.
* Performance Assessments
	+ Students will answer several **laboratory questions** as they complete their lab experiment. Their skills and understanding of the experiment and of the lab equipment will be monitored and assessed as they work. Laboratory work will count towards the students’ project, classwork, and/or homework grade.
		- Overtime, students will be self-sufficient and will have a clear understanding of the scientific method, how to correct mistakes, and what is expected of their lab reports. Students will be able to complete the assignments independently and will also have the skills **to design and implement their own experiment.**
		- Data will be taken to using student lab reports to monitor their progress and provide additional assistance if necessary
* Summative assessments
	+ Summative assessments will be given upon the completion of each unit or whenever is deemed

necessary. Such assessments will consist of higher order questions, short answer responses, and/or essays. Exams will be multidimensional to advocate for each student.

* + - Students wishing to improve their score on an exam can do so by taking a subsequent assessment. Students will also have to complete an assignment focusing on their areas of weakness.
	+ **Lab reports** will be graded and will count towards the students’ project grade. Rubrics and clear directions and expectations will be provided for each lab report.
	+ Data will be taken for each summative assessment to monitor progress

Classroom Management Policy

* Behavior
* Negative behavior typically occurs when students are either unengaged or confused. Many behavioral concerns can be alleviated by making sure that students are always engaged and interested in their work, directions are made clear, and all questions are answered sufficiently.
* Clear expectations of student behavior will be provided for students at the beginning of the year. Students will be reinforced for exhibiting positive behavior. Negative behavior will be addressed consistently to ensure that each student learns the consequences for certain behavior.
* Young Scholars implements a **School Wide Positive Behavior Intervention System** that encourages students to be outstanding **“OWLS”: Own Your Actions, Wise Choices, Lead the Way, Safety First**.
	+ Students who are caught exhibiting positive behaviors will be given a ticket that explains the actions they were engaging in
		- Students can either turn their tickets into the Owl’s Nest or save up their tickets to collect a prize
* Students who exhibit a **minor** negative behavior will be redirected towards the expected behavior. If the behavior continues, a **Parent Notification Form** may be filled out
* Students who exhibit a **major** negative behavior will have an **Office Referral Form** filled out

Grading Policy

* A tentative layout of the weight of each category is shown below. Percentages and categories are subject to change.
	+ Homework: 15% Tests: 30% Projects: 25%
	+ Classwork: 10% Quizzes: 20%